

Module code: MOD008567	Version: 4 Date Amended: 03/Nov/2025
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1. Module Title
The Law of Family Relationships

2a. Module Leader
Imranali Panjwani

2b. School
School of Economics, Finance and Law

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Business and Law

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module explores the ways in which the state regulates the formation and termination of marriage, the types of personal and familial relationships and the conduct between family members. It specifically addresses the economic issues and legal solutions confronting marital and non-marital families, particularly upon divorce, domestic violence within marriage and non-marital family units, property rights and the family home and the relationship between private decision-making and state imposed solutions. Finally, the module examines the nature of childhood within law, how agency is granted or denied to children, how the law offers vulnerable children protection and security, regulates parenting through the intervention of courts and wardship.

The module content is highly relevant to professional legal practice. Family law is a widespread practice area in law firms requiring an understanding of not just the law but the social, ethical, religious and cultural norms that families live by – a theme permeating the teaching of this module. The module also helps prepare you for the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) – particularly legal research and writing which forms part of the SQE2 assessment. The module also develops a number of employability skills which are transferrable within a wide range of workplace settings. For example, problem-solving, critical-thinking skills, research and communication skills, focusing on the client's needs and cultural sensitivity by understanding LGBT and cohabiting relationships and feminist and other critical perspectives.

6b. Outline Content

- Nature and formation of marriage
- Ending of marriage including nullity and divorce
- Financial provision on marital breakdown or the breakdown of the family unit
- Domestic violence and occupation of the family home
- Property rights and the family home
- The nature of childhood and child rights
- Parental responsibility and parental rights
- Protection of vulnerable children and intervention of the state
- Alternative dispute resolution
- Implications of the Human Rights Act

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources
None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Explain how legal rules, principles, doctrines, and institutions in the law of family relationships interact within wider social, political, commercial, and ethical contexts to balance competing interests;
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Analyse and compare a range of legal materials relating to the law of family relationships, and evaluate legal arguments, addressing ambiguity and uncertainty with developing independence and insight;
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Analyse and apply legal understanding to moderately complex scenarios, and construct reasoned and coherent solutions that consider both legal principles and practical outcomes;
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Communicate legal information and arguments effectively and coherently, using a logical structure, clear and reasoned expression, and appropriate academic and professional conventions, including consistent OSCOLA referencing.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	0	N/A	N/A
Other teacher managed learning	25.5	1-4	1 x 1 hour tutor led workshop OR 1 x 1 hour lecture x 11 weeks (weeks 1-11) AND 1 x 1 hour student led workshop OR 1 x 1 hour tutorial x 11 weeks (weeks 1-11) PLUS 1 x 20min screencast x 10 weeks
Student managed learning	124.5	1-4	To include such things as watching screencasts, online discussion boards, VLE exercises, private study (guided and autonomous), tutorial preparation, assessment preparation and completion.
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
3,000 word coursework applying the law to an authentic scenario					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*). In addition, students are required to: (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above (b) pass any pass/fail elements [* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]
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